

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated July 11, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 7, and 12 are currently amended.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,808,707 to Niibori et al. (hereinafter “Niibori”). Claims 6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niibori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,141 B1 to Kawano et al. (hereinafter “Kawano”). Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niibori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,503,665 to Muramatsu et al. (hereinafter “Muramatsu”). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niibori in view of Muramatsu as applied to claims 12-16 and further in view of Kawano. Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Prior Art (Fig. 2) in view of Niibori. Claims 6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Prior Art (Fig. 2) in view of Niibori as applied to claims 1-5 and 7 and further in view of Kawano. Claims 12-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Prior Art (Fig. 2) in view of Niibori and Muramatsu. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Prior Art (Fig. 2) in view of Niibori and Muramatsu as applied to claims 12-16 and 18 and further in view of Kawano.

The rejection of claims 1-18 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-18 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a pad...in contact with the light guide”. None of the cited references including Niibori, Kawano and Muramatsu, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Niibori structure in that in Niibori, the pad 18 is not in contact with the light guide. In fact, in Niibori, the pad 18 is away from, or distant the lighting unit 27. Therefore, it is not “between the panel guide and the backlight assembly and fully offset from the light source” as required by the claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 are allowable over the cited references at least for this reason.

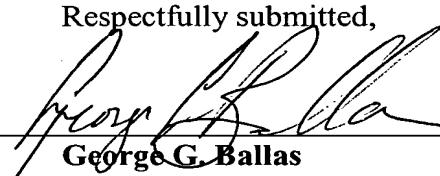
Applicants believe the foregoing discussion place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Dated: January 12, 2006

By

Respectfully submitted,

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